(b) if so, the number of telephone connections cancelled as a result of this order and how many of those are from the quota allotted to Members of Parliament?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHR P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir. No cancellation orders have been issued. However further action on the provision of telephones under these sanction orders has been kept in abeyance for the present as the whole matter is under review.

(b) Does not arise.

Losses in DTC

281. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Transport Corporation has continuously been running under losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the exact details of the losses suffered by the Corporation during the years 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91; and

(c) what measures Government propose to adopt to reduce/eliminate the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The net loss incurred by DTC during the last three years is indicated below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Net Loss (including depreciation and interest)
1988-89	9899.32
1989-90	11984.56
1990-91 (Provisional)	19748.35

The reasons for the losses are—

(1) Uneconomic fare structure of DTC.

(2) Rising cost of labour and material inputs.

(3) Concessions given to students and weaker sections of the society through cancessional passes.

(4) Heavy interest burden on loans advanced etc.

(c) Government are continually monitoring the performance of DTC with a view to increase its productivity and to reduce the cost of operations, enforce economy measures, prevent leakages with a view to increase revenue collection and reduce working losses. Rationalisation of routes is another measure which is undertaken by DTC for improving its performance.

Construction of "Toll Highways" by Private Companies

282. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to award the works relating to construction of "toll highways" in the country to private companies;

(b) if so, has any such project been awarded;

(c) whether Government propose to connect Bombay and Ahmedabad by such a highway; and

(d) if so, the present position of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGES) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) No Sir. There is no proposal so far to construct "toll highways" in the country. However, an Expressway is presently under construction from Ahmedabad to Vadodara under normal National Highway allocations. It is too early to indicate whether this will be a tool facility.

There is no proposal as yet about such a highway from Vadodara to Bombay.

Contracts for Printing of Telephone Directories and "Yellow Pages" to Private Parties

283. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various private parties have been awarded contracts to print Telephone Directories and "Yellow pages" for various cities;

(b) if so, the salient features of the contracts;

(c) whether there has been any delay in printing of Directories for Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras; and

(d) if so, what corrective measures have been taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHR P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Besides, providing agreed number of Directories free of cost to the Department, for telephone subscribers, the contractor has also to pay an agreed amount/percentage as royalty to the Depatment.

(c) There has been no delay in printing of directories in case of Madras. However, there has been delay in the case of Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta.

(d) Notices have been issued to the contractors to expedite printing of delayed issues of directories, as laid down in the contract.

Widening and improvement of National Highway between Bombay and Pune

284. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be please to state:

(a) whether Government propose to widen and improve the National Highway between Bombay and Pune; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some works of widening and improvement are already in progress on this section of NH-4. Further works will be considered after finalisation of the VIII Plan.

Bills pending from states for presidential Assent

285. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Bills pending from States for Presidential assent alongwith the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that in some cases there has been inordinate delay in getting presidential assent; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIR AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) As on date, there are 76 State Bills requiring Presidential assent. Statewise information is given in the enclosed statement. Of these, 35 Bills are pending for want of necessary clarifications from the concerned State Governments and the remaining are under various stages of consideration in consultation with the concerned administrative Ministries and Departments of Government of India.

(b) and (c) A few cases have remained pending for quite some time as efforts continue to be made to reconcile the State and national perspective in a satisfactory manner.